

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8980

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 5148

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY ONLY FROM MURPHY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR SY US

SUBJ: YOUR PERSONAL MESSAGE FOR ASAD

1. AFTER HEARING OUR MATERIAL ON SOVIET ROLE IN LEBANON AUGUST 3 (DAMASCUS 5147), KHADDAM ASKED IF I HAD ANY OTHER INFORMATION TO CONVEY. SAID I HAD RETURNED WITH VERBAL MESSAGE FROM YOU FOR ASAD AND NEEDED ONLY A BRIEF INTERVIEW. (HAD ALREADY NOTIFIED PRESIDENCY I HAD SUCH MESSAGE FOR ASAD.) KHADDAM REPLIED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD CHARGED HIM TO RECEIVE ANY PERSONAL MESSAGES I MIGHT HAVE BROUGHT. NOTED ASAD WAS CURRENTLY VACATIONING IN LATTAKIA AREA. I SAID THAT THIS MESSAGE WAS FOR PRESIDENT'S EARS ALONE AND I WOULD WAIT UNTIL HE COULD RECEIVE ME.

2. KHADDAM CALLED ME BACK MORNING AUGUST 4 TO SAY THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD RECEIVE ME IN LATTAKIA IF I FELT THAT MESSAGE WAS URGENT. TO MY QUESTION HOW LONG THE PRESIDENT EXPECTED TO BE AWAY, KHADDAM SAID AT LEAST A WEEK AND PERHAPS LONGER. I SAID IN THAT CASE I SHOULD GO TO LATTAKIA. KHADDAM SAID HE WOULD MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS. (PRESIDENCY HAS JUST ADVISED MEETING WILL BE EITHER SATURDAY OR SUNDAY.)
MURPHY

SECRET

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